



## Daily Digest - September 10, 2009

### **Harvard study: Businesses not ready for H1N1 flu**

[Seattle Times](#)

Many American businesses are unprepared to deal with widespread employee absenteeism in the event of an outbreak of swine flu, according to a Harvard study released Wednesday.

### **Seattle's stature, bargain on building won over Russell**

[Seattle Times](#)

As Russell Investments weighed whether to keep its headquarters in Tacoma or move to Seattle, the Downtown Seattle Association arranged a meeting this spring between Russell officials and the CEOs of a half-dozen major Seattle-based companies. "They wanted to know, 'Does Seattle play on a global stage?' " Kate Joncas, president of the Seattle business group, recalled Wednesday.

### **Russell move could signal downtown turnaround**

[Seattle P-I](#)

Wednesday's announcement that Russell Investments is moving to Seattle might not put much of a dent in the office-vacancy rate, but it could be a symbolic turning point for the struggling downtown real estate market. "It's a fantastic move and a great thing for the city of Seattle," said Leigh Callaghan, senior vice president at Colliers International in Seattle.

### **City Council announces 10 technology initiatives for 2010**

[Seattle City Council](#)

Councilmember Bruce Harrell of the Seattle City Council has just proposed an outline of ten technology initiatives for 2010 that will optimize the use of technology across the city, resulting in increased transparency, enhanced access to customer service and city information, and improved government effectiveness and efficiency.

### **Seattle's Verdiem ranks in 1st annual Global Cleantech 100**

[Cleantech Group](#)

The Guardian and Cleantech Group's 1st annual Global Cleantech 100 highlights the most promising private clean technology companies around the world. 55 U.S. companies rank on the list, including two from Washington state and one, Verdiem, from Seattle.

### **Xconomy forum imagines Seattle biotech in 20 years**

[Seattle Times](#)

On October 19, a panel of life sciences entrepreneurs and visionaries will speak at the 2009 Xconomy Forum: Seattle Life Sciences in 2029. All will speculate on the progression of Seattle biotech's role as a world leader in university and corporate research, venture financing, and entrepreneurial activity in the life sciences, over the next 20 years.

### **Four 'windows' below I-5 are the first step in U-Link tunnel**

[Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce](#)

Sound Transit's University Link segment might involve the stealthiest construction of any of the agency's light-rail projects because the entire 3.15-mile route is underground. Initial work on the segment, perhaps the most visible, has started along both sides of Interstate 5 in downtown Seattle.

### **New retirement rules: What small businesses need to know**

[The Wall Street Journal](#)

Socking away retirement funds is becoming more expensive for small-business owners and employees. When the stock market plunged roughly 40% last year, retirement plan assets also took a dive. In 2008, assets held within retirement plans lost 22% of their value.

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